

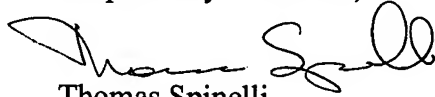
**REMARKS**

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-identified application prior to examination.

By means of the present Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended to cross reference the parent application, PCT/JP02/11282. No new matter has been entered by way of the present preliminary amendment.

In view of the above, early and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Spinelli", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas Spinelli

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